

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 /188 W

-----117224 220301Z /70

R 201333Z APR 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8632

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 05984

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, ID

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA-AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S

CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR

REF: JAKARTA 4928, JAKARTA 3920

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR ARRIVED IN GENEVA ON APRIL 16 AND DEPARTED APRIL 19. AT MOCHTAR'S INVITATION, AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON CALLED ON HIM APRIL 18 FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ISSUES BEFORE THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHICH IS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

2. CONFERENCE PROSPECTS: REGARDING THE PRESIDENCY, MINISTER MOCHTAR (WHO WILL RETURN TO THE SEVENTH SESSION IN EARLY MAY) STATED THAT THE FIGHT OVER AMERASINGHE MAY STILL BE HAVING A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE CONFERENCE
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AND THAT IT MAY WELL PREVENT THE SEVENTH SESSION FROM MAKING MEANINGFUL PROGRESS. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON STATED THAT HE FELT THAT MODERATES WERE STRONGER AS A RESULT OF THE FIGHT OVER THE PRESIDENCY AND THAT THIS MIGHT BE CONDUCIVE TO PROGRESS, ESPECIALLY ON SEABED ISSUES. MOCHTAR AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE MODERATES WERE STRONGER BECAUSE LAST YEAR

THEY WERE COWED BY THE RADICALS IN THE GROUP OF 77. IN A WAY, ACCORDING TO MOCHTAR, THE PRESIDENCY FIGHT ENABLED THE ASIANS TO DECLARE THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE LATINS. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON CITED KOH AS A EXAMPLE OF A MODERATE WHO HAS BEEN QUITE INFLUENTIAL IN THE SEVENTH SESSION AND MOCHTAR STATED THAT THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH KOH.

MOCHTAR STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE SINCE READING THE DARMAN ARTICLE. THIS ATTITUDE HAS RECENTLY CHANGED BECAUSE OF ASSURANCES FROM THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA THAT THE ARTICLE DID NOT REPRESENT U.S. POLICY. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON REAFFIRMED THIS U.S. POSITION AND STATED THAT IF A TREATY BECAME IMMINENT HE WOULD WRITE A REBUTTAL TO THE DARMAN ARTICLE IN "FOREIGN AFFAIRS". RICHARDSON AND MOCHTAR AGREED THAT A RELATIVELY PRAGMATIC ATTITUDE NOW PREVAILED IN COMMITTEE I AND THAT AGREEMENT IN THAT COMMITTEE WAS CLOSER THAN IT HAD BEEN IN THE PAST.

3. PRODUCTION LIMITATION: AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON STATED THAT THE TOUGHEST PROBLEM FACING THE COMMITTEE I NEGOTIATORS WAS PRODUCTION LIMITATION. HE FURTHER STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE U.S. COULD ACCEPT LESS THAN 100 PERCENT OF THE GROWTH SECTOR, THE 50-60 PERCENT FIGURES WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED WERE FAR TOO LOW. MOCHTAR INDICATED

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AGREEMENT THAT THE LATTER FIGURES WERE UNREALISTIC.

4. COUNCIL/ASSEMBLY: AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON STATED THAT ANOTHER EXTREMELY TOUGH PROBLEM WAS THE COMPOSITION AND VOTING POWERS OF THE COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY. THE EVENSEN TEXT ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON WAS INDICATIVE OF THE SORT OF COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD BE NEEDED TO WORK THIS PROBLEM OUT. MOCHTAR AGREED THAT THIS WAS A VERY TOUGH PROBLEM AND REFERRED TO HIS IDEA OF LAST YEAR, I.E., THAT THE CREATION OF NEW POLITICAL ORGANS WAS UNNECESSARY IN ORDER FOR THE ENTERPRISE TO MINE THE SEABED. HE STATED THAT IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT IF GUIDANCE FOR THE ENTERPRISE CAME FROM A COMMITTEE OF THE UNGA WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ECOSOC. THE PROBLEM WITH THIS IDEA, ACCORDING TO MINISTER MOCHTAR, IS THAT IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE IN THE CONFERENCE FOR IT TO BE EFFECTIVELY SURFACED, ESPECIALLY WHEN MANY DELEGATES LIKE THE IDEA OF THE AUTHORITY AND THE JOBS WHICH IT WILL CREATE. RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA05984
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780172-0023
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780436/aaaabego.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e26e79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JAKARTA 4928, 78 JAKARTA 3920
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2906612
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAW OF THE SEA-AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR
TAGS: PLOS, ID, US, (RICHARDSON, ELLIOT L), (MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e26e79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014